

REMARKS

By way of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-43 are now pending, with claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14-16, 18, 19, 30 and 34 being amended, and new claims 35-43 having been added. Examination on the merits is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

November 12, 2002
Date

Phillip J. Articola
Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819

FOLEY & LARDNER
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-5489
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEMARKED-UP CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) An attachment mechanism for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object, comprising:

a first [adhesive strip] adhering unit that has a first adhering surface for adhering to the first object, and a second adhering surface;

a backer/stabilizer that has a first surface that is adhered to the second adhering surface of the first [adhesive strip] adhering unit;

a first releasably attachable [pad] unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and a back side that is adhered to a second surface of the backer/stabilizer;

a second releasably attachable [pad] unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and which is configured to be releasably attached to the front side of the first releasably attachable [pad] unit; and

a second [adhesive strip] adhering unit that has a first adhering surface for adhering to a back side of the second releasably attachable [pad] unit, and a second adhering surface for adhering to a surface of the second object.

2. (Amended) The attachment device according to claim 1, wherein the backer/stabilizer is one of styrofoam, wood, plastic, cardboard, spongy material, [and] card stock, and any combination thereof.

3. (Amended) An attachment device for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object, comprising:

a backer/stabilizer that has a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface;

a first releasably attachable [pad] unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and a back side that is adhered to a second surface of the backer/stabilizer;

a second releasably attachable [pad] unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and which is configured to be releasably attached to the front side of the first releasably attachable [pad] unit;

[a second adhesive strip that has a first adhering surface for adhering to a back side of the second releasably attachable pad, and a second adhering surface for adhering to a surface of the second object] means for attaching the second releasably attachable unit to the second object; and

means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object.

4. (Amended) The attachment device according to claim 3, wherein the means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object includes at least one of bonding, mechanically attaching, stapling, gluing, sewing, tying and releasable-adhesive-taping the backer/stabilizer to the first object.

6. (Amended) The attachment device according to claim 5, wherein the connecting element is one of: a first [protruding] element for coupling to a cavity portion of the first object, and a second [protruding] element for coupling to a solid, spike-shaped portion of the first object.

8. (Amended) An attachment device for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object, the first object including an affixing element having first and second ends, the attachment mechanism comprising:

a backer/stabilizer that has a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, the backer/stabilizer including at least a first [hole] opening;

a first releasably attachable [pad] unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and a back side that is adhered to a second surface of the backer/stabilizer;

a second releasably attachable [pad] unit that has a front side with a [Velcro] releasably attachable surface which is configured to be releasably attached to the front side of the first releasably attachable [pad] unit; and

a second adhesive strip that has a first adhering surface for adhering to a back side of the second releasably attachable [pad] unit, and a second adhering surface for adhering to a surface of the second object,

wherein at least one of the first and second ends of the affixing element are fitted through the first [hole] opening of the backer/stabilizer, and

wherein the first and second ends of the affixing element are coupled together [on an opposite side of the backer/stabilizer,] to provide a coupling of the first object to the backer/stabilizer.

10. (Amended) An attachment device for releasably attaching a first object to a second object, comprising:

[an elastic band] a coupling component;

a backer/stabilizer having at least two regions for receiving respective ends of the elastic band;

a first releasably attachable pad that is adhesively coupled to one surface of the backer/stabilizer,

wherein a portion of the elastic band is disposed between the first releasably attachable pad and the one surface of the backer/stabilizer;

a second releasably attachable pad that has a first releasably attachable surface that is configured to be releasably coupled to the first releasably attachable pad; and

an adhesive material provided on a second, non-releasably attachable surface of the second releasably attachable pad,

wherein the adhesive material is adapted to be adhered to the second object, and

wherein the [elastic band] coupling component is adapted to be fitted around a portion of the first object.

11. (Amended) The attachment device according to claim 10, wherein the at least two regions of the backer/stabilizer are one of: a) at least two holes passing from the top surface to the bottom surface of the backer/stabilizer, and b) at least two openings formed at respective ends of the backer/stabilizer[, and a channel portion formed on the bottom surface of the backer/stabilizer, for holding portions of the elastic band in place against the backer/stabilizer].

14. (Amended) A reusable ornament for attachment to an object, comprising:

an ornamental portion; and

a coupling portion for coupling the ornamental portion to the object,

wherein the coupling portion includes:

a ribbon for wrapping around the object, the ribbon including:

a first releasably attachable [pad] unit provided adjacent a first end of the ribbon on a first surface of the ribbon;

a second releasably attachable [pad] unit provided adjacent a second end of the ribbon on a second surface of the ribbon opposite the first surface; and

[a third releasably attachable pad provided on the first surface of the ribbon]

means for attaching the ribbon to the ornamental portion,

[wherein the third releasably attachable pad is adapted to be coupled to a releasably attachable pad disposed on the ornamental portion of the reusable ornament, and]

wherein the first and second releasably attachable [pads] units are adapted to be [coupled] attached to each other when the ribbon is wrapped around the object.

15. (Amended) A storage device for storing objects, comprising:

a holding portion having a substantially flat surface;

a plurality of [rows and columns of] releasably attachable [pads] units disposed on the substantially flat surface of the holding portion, each of said releasably attachable [pads] units configured to hold one object in place between uses of the object,

wherein each object includes an attachment device having a releasably attachable portion for coupling to one of the releasably attachable [pads] units provided on the holding portion.

16. (Amended) The storage device according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for attaching the storage board on an object.

[a hanger cord coupled to the holding portion, for hanging the storage board on an object.]

18. (Amended) A reusable object, comprising:

a container portion for holding an element to be stored therewith; and

an attachment device coupled to the container portion,

wherein the attachment device includes:

a first releasably attachable [pad that has an adhesive] surface for attachment to an outer surface of the container portion;

a second releasably attachable [pad that has an adhesive] surface for attachment to another object, wherein the first and second releasably attachable [pads each has a releasably attachable surface for releasably coupling the first and second releasably attachable pad to each other, to thereby] surfaces provide for a releasably [couple] coupling of the reusable object to the another object.

19. (Amended) The reusable object according to claim 18, further comprising:

a lid or cap portion for coupling to the container portion to encompass the element within the container portion and the lid or cap portion.

30. (Amended) An object having a magnetic portion, comprising:

a [first] releasable attaching means disposed on one surface of the object;

wherein the magnetic portion is disposed on the one surface of the object, and

wherein the [first] releasable attaching means is adapted to be coupled to [a second releasable attaching means that is attached to] another object, to thereby releasably couple the object to the another object.

34. (Amended) An attachment mechanism for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object and later to a third object, comprising:

a backer/stabilizer;

means for [adhering] attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object; an adhesive unit having first and second adhesive surfaces that is configured to adhere to the backer/stabilizer by way of the first adhesive surface, and that is configured to adhere to the second object by way of the second adhesive surface,

wherein, after the backer/stabilizer [and the first object] has been deattached from the [first] second object and prior to reuse of the backer/stabilizer and the first object for attachment to the third object, the adhesive unit is removed from the backer/stabilizer to allow another adhesive unit to be adhered thereto.

35. (New) The storage device according to claim 15, further comprising:

a dust cover provided over the substantially flat surface of the holding portion.

36. (New) The storage device according to claim 16, wherein the means for attaching comprises:

a hanger cord coupled to the holding portion, for hanging the storage board on the object.

37. (New) The attachment mechanism according to claim 34, wherein the adhesive unit corresponds to a COMMAND STRIP.

38. (New) The attachment mechanism according to claim 34, wherein the adhesive unit includes a non-adhesive tab portion.

39. (New) A reattachable object, comprising:
an object to be attached to another object; and
a releasable attachment unit that has a first surface attached to the object
and a second surface for releasable attachment to the another object.

40. (New) The reattachment object according to claim 39, further comprising:

an adhesive unit for releasably attaching the releasable attachment unit to the object.

41. (New) The reattachment object according claim 39, wherein the object has a solid composition.

42. (New) The reattachment object according to claim 39, wherein the releasable attachment unit is one of a VELCRO pad and a COMMAND STRIP.

43. (New) An attachment device for attaching a first object to a second object, comprising:

a backer/stabilizer that is provided on a first portion of the attachment device;

means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object;

means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the second object;

a hanger portion that is provided on a second portion of the attachment device, the hanger portion allowing the attachment device to be hung on a display device; and

perforating means provided on the attachment device to allow a user to separate the first portion from the second portion.